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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,690	02/18/2004	Tsuyoshi Kuroki	00862.023465.	8951

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EXAMINER	
ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2165	
MAIL DATE	**DELIVERY MODE**
03/12/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/779,690	KUROKI, TSUYOSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	NEVEEN ABEL JALIL	2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *December 29, 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *15-17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *15-17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to Applicant's Amendment filed on December 29, 2007, claims 15-17 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spencer, JR. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0044672 A1) in view of Simonoff (U.S. Patent No. 7,043,529 B1).

As to claims 15-17, Spencer, JR. discloses an information processing method for sharing, via a management server, an object in a three-dimensional virtual space between a plurality of client apparatuses, the method comprising:

a receiving step of the management server receiving a connection request from one of the plurality of client apparatuses (See paragraph 0074, wherein "connection request" is part of the communication between client and server);

an issuing step of the management server issuing, in response to receiving the connection request from the client apparatus, a unique client identifier to identify the respective client apparatus that transmitted the connection request, wherein the issuing step issues a different

unique client identifier for each of the plurality of client apparatuses (wherein it is inherent that each connection between client and server has a unique communication TCP/IP address, and paragraph 0069, clearly teaches the unique identifier associated with each manager installed on each individual client);

a transmitting step of the management server transmitting, to the respective client apparatus that transmitted the connection request, the unique client identifier corresponding to the respective client apparatus (wherein it is inherent that each connection between client and server has a unique communication TCP/IP address, and paragraph 0069, clearly teaches the unique identifier associated with each manager installed on each individual client);

the client apparatus storing in a storage unit thereof the unique client identifier transmitted by the management server (See paragraph 0084, and see paragraph 0112); and

a generating step of the client apparatus generating a new object (See paragraph 0076, wherein a new GUID is generated by each client that includes both the newly generated object label and device that accessed it as explained in paragraphs 0103-0111);

an identification information generating step of, when the new object is generated, the client apparatus generating object identification information of the generated new object, the object identification information being represented as an integer, and information uniquely generated by the client apparatus (See paragraph 0076, wherein a new GUID is generated by each client that includes both the newly generated object label and device that accessed it as explained in paragraphs 0103-0111, and wherein GUID is different integer than the client ID alone, its unclear what is meant by "information uniquely generated by the client"?);

a transmitting step of the client apparatus transmitting, the generated object identification information and information necessary *for* causing another client to generate the object to the management server (wherein it is suggested that "for causing" is to be replaced with "to cause" to avoid an intended use interpretation, and wherein it is clear in the client server communication the shared object is transmitted with its generated GUID to the central server for access by other clients as explained in paragraph 0125, and earlier in paragraph 0013);

the management server transmitting the object identification information and the information necessary *for causing* another client to generate the object to other client apparatuses among the plurality of client apparatuses (wherein it is suggested that "for causing" is to be replaced with "to cause" to avoid an intended use interpretation, and see paragraph 0084); and

a generating step of each of the other client apparatuses generating the new object in a three-dimensional virtual space based on the object identification information and the information necessary *for* causing another client apparatus to generate the object transmitted by the management server (wherein it is suggested that "for causing" is to be replaced with "to cause" to avoid an intended use interpretation, and wherein it is inherent once one object is generated at one client then another object can also be generated at a different client utilizing the same method, wherein the collaborative CAD application is inherently a "three-dimensional virtual space" see paragraph 0019, and Figure 1).

Spencer teaches the claimed invention wherein paragraph 0084 shows the object is generated by a client and assigned a GUID uniquely differentiating it across the network (GUID are typically integers). Although, it is seen as inherent feature of a network that an IP address (an integer) is typically assigned by a server to client when establishing a communication (presence

on the network), it is reasonable to interpret Spencer's cache's (client) to be assigned a identifier unique across the network as suggested by paragraphs 0069-0070, and its reasonable for the GUID to be inclusive of the Cache ID (client's ID) that generated it as suggested by paragraph 0084; Simonoff is now introduced to further prosecution and clearly and explicitly show the amended features.

Simonoff explicitly teaches server assigning client ID that are integers (IP addresses) (See Abstract and see Figure 6); and

the object identification information being represented as an integer having a larger number of bits than the number of bits required for representing the unique client identifier and including the integer representing the unique client identifier identified (See column 22, lines 30-31, column 22, lines 45-50, column 22, lines 64-67, and column 25, lines 3-9, column 25, lines 28-36).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Spencer with the teachings of Simonoff to include server assigning client ID that are integers the object identification information being represented as an integer having a larger number of bits than the number of bits required for representing the unique client identifier and including the integer representing the unique client identifier identified and because it facilitate collaboration between users while maintaining object uniqueness and accuracy across the shared space (See Simonoff abstract).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Although the arguments are moot, it is worth noting that Applicant's argument that Spencer does not teach or suggest " is not found to be persuasive since It is inherent to the teachings of the networking art, that each computer client is assigned and unique IP address which is an integer when managed by a server and connected to a network. Spencer's cache connections are assigned computer IDs when establishing communication with the server. Nevertheless, Simonoff has been added to explicitly teach this feature to assist in expediting prosecution. It is also noted that once a GUID is generated at the client's computer which is considered unique across the network under Spencer then it would reasonably fall under the understanding that it would include the identification of the client that generated it as a way of being acknowledged as unique across the network. Spencer teachings in paragraphs 0069-0070, and 0084 support such interpretation.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Parekh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,403,978 B2) teaches IP addresses are typically 8-bit unique integers.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christian P. Chace can be reached on 571-272-4190. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Neveen Abel-Jalil
Primary Examiner
March 9, 2009
/Neveen Abel-Jalil/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2165